
MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**of
Thursday, June 13, 2019
at
7:00pm to be held at Town Hall Annex
66 Prospect Street**

Commissioners Present: George Kain, Chairman
Marianne Coffin, Secretary
Charles Knoche
Nicholas Perna

Absent: Joseph Savino

Also Present: Chief Jeffery Kreitz
Major Stephen Brown

These minutes are an overview of the meeting; not a verbatim text.

The meeting was called to order at 07:00pm by Chairman Kain.

AGENDA REVIEW

Chairman Kain asked the Commissioners if anyone had any adjustments to the agenda.

Chief Kreitz requested to move Agenda Item #7A to Agenda Item #1. Chairman Kain requested a motion to accept the move. Commissioner Knoche made the motion. Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion. All in favor.

Chairman Kain stated that there would be an Executive Session for personnel matters following the Public Session.

AGENDA ITEM #1 OLD BUSINESS

A. Juvenile Review Board (JRB) Presentation by Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney Fran Carino and John Capozzi

Juvenile Review Board

Fran Carino, Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney for the State of Connecticut and John Capozzi, Bridgeport State's Attorney for Juvenile Matters made a presentation to the Commission regarding the establishment of Juvenile Review Boards.

Both attorneys have experience with JRB's and believe them to be valuable programs for youth and for communities.

John Capozzi stated that he has seen an increase in the use of JRB's over the past six years and sees little recidivism with juveniles who go through the JRB process.

Fran Carino stated that there are about 85 JRB's in the state covering 135 towns. He explained that JRB's are a diversionary program; instead of sending a juvenile to court for minor offenses, the police send them to a JRB.

He added that the JRB is beneficial to both juveniles and communities. He feels juveniles are better served by the JRB for minor crimes. He stated most JRB's are affiliated with Youth Service Bureaus. There are no state statutes regulating JRB's so each local JRB can manage their board as they wish. He recommended his website and the Connecticut Youth Services Bureau's best practices manuals as guides.

Fran Carino explained that the police have the discretion as to who is sent to a JRB. If the youth, and/or the parents, decline any part of the JRB decisions or directions, then the youth is referred to the juvenile court. Parents must agree to all of the JRB's rules and findings. The JRB should consult with and get input from victims. Confidentiality is paramount in a JRB, so each member signs a confidentiality agreement.

Fran Carino suggested that the make-up of a JRB should include a member of the Ridgefield Youth Services Bureau, the police department, a probation officer, and members of the community. He stated some boards include the faith community and DCF.

Members of the Ridgefield Youth Services Bureau were in attendance. One member, John Katz, asked Fran a question about DCF's role. Fran explained that DCF can provide various counseling services. Another member, Denise Qualey, stated that in her experience, it is important to have the juvenile admit guilt and take responsibility for what they did. She feels this helps the juvenile to learn from their mistakes.

A member of the audience, Tom Reynolds, asked if JRB's are endorsed by state's attorneys. Fran and John stated that they are and John, as the Bridgeport States attorney for Juvenile Matters, stated he endorses JRB's.

Fran Carino stated that in his experience, young people receive more

resources, time, and attention through a JRB.

AGENDA ITEM #2 MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2019 POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

Chairman Kain requested a motion to accept the minutes of May 9, 2019. Commissioner Coffin made the motion. Commissioner Perna seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written. All in favor.

AGENDA ITEM #3A COMMISSION VOICEMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

There was no voicemail correspondence for the month of May.

AGENDA ITEM #3B COMMISSION WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

One letter was sent requesting a dangerous curve sign be put on Ridgebury Road. This will be discussed during the sign report.

AGENDA ITEM #4 CHIEF'S REPORT

A. **Statistics** Chief Kretiz stated the number of calls for the month of May is 1,673, there were 26 medical assists, 3 DUI's, 57 car accidents.

B. **Training/PR Report**

The following report was submitted by Captain Shawn Platt, Division of Professional Standards:

**RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
TRAINING & COMMUNITY POLICING/PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT
*May 2019***

April 29-May 10	PO Shimko attended Fairfield County Detective Training School held at Fairfield PD.
May 2	Capt. Comstock, Lt. Durling, PO Daly, PO Giglio, PO Caba, PO Ekstrom, PO Luis attended Rescue Task Force Training.
May 7	Capt. Platt and Lt. Durling attended Police Wellness Training at Elexion in New Haven, CT.
May 7, 14, 21	Capt. Platt hosted the Citizen Police Academy.

May 8	Lt. Smith, Sgt. Knoche, PO Mulvihill, Sgt. Clarke, Det. DuBord, Det. Ryan, PO McMahon attended Rescue Task Force Training.
May 9	Capt. Platt, Sgt. Brown, Sgt. Murray, PO Capozzi, PO Samoskevich, PO Geller, PO Ladue attended Rescue Task Force Training.
May 13-June 14	High School intern Ryan Sheafe started at the department.
May 20-24	PO Ladue attended Interview and Interrogation Training at the CT. Police Academy in Meriden, CT.
May 23	Police Memorial Day Ceremony was held at the Lounsbury House.
May 29	GRADD Ceremony & Flag Raising took place at Town Hall.
May 29	5 th Grade DARE Graduation took place at Branchville Elementary School.

A total of 24 Public Relations incidents were recorded during the month to include:

- Multiple car seat installations
- Multiple stop and talks at houses of worship
- PD Tours and Safety Talk Presentations by PO Olivares, Sgt. Murray, PO DiFalco, PO McKnight
- Capt Platt attended the RVNA Health Fair held at the East Ridge Middle School
- Monthly Youth Commission meeting was attended by Det. Dardis
- Various talks with downtown shop owners and community members

This report was submitted by Captain Shawn Platt, Division of Professional Standards.

C. **Sign Report**

The following report was submitted to the Police Commission by Traffic Sign Officer Mark Caswell:

June 7, 2019

To: Ridgefield Police Commission
From: Officer Mark Caswell
Regarding: Ridgebury Road Curve Sign Request

On June 1, 2019 Captain Terzian requested that I survey the area of 131 Ridgebury Road. Captain Terzian received a request from the homeowner's daughter, Elizabeth Erskine, to investigate the installation of Dangerous Curve signage in the area between 131 and 145 Ridgebury Road traveling southbound. Mrs. Erskine stated that there is a blind corner prior to her mother's driveway causing a safety issue as various caregivers for her mother attempting to exit the driveway. She is also concerned about the speed and increased volume of the traffic traveling on Ridgebury Road. On June 5, 2019, I surveyed the area to investigate the possibility of installing a Dangerous Curve sign in the area. The posted speed limit on Ridgebury Road is 25 mph. There are adequate speed limit signs and curve signs currently installed and an additional dangerous curve sign isn't warranted at this time. I ran a radar detail and the fastest speed clocked was 33 mph. Day Shift also ran a detail and had one vehicle clocked at 36 mph. I surveyed the two driveway entrances and there is a considerable amount of brush on the roadside that limits visibility looking north. It is my recommendation that Mrs. Erskine contact town highway and have the roadside cleared to improve visibility. I would also recommend using the driveway entrance further south to allow for easier egress from the property. Additional radar enforcement can be used as well as the speed trailer to further reinforce the speed limit on Ridgebury Road. Respectfully Submitted,

PO Caswell #193

PO Caswell spoke to Ms. Erskine and advised her of his findings.

D. Chief's Goals

- **IT**

The server upgrade is complete. Also, the cameras and recording system have been installed.

- **Community Partnerships**

Major Brown reported on the Torch Run for the Special Olympics. This has been a very successful fund raiser for the town of Ridgefield for nine years. The Ridgefield Police Department has always been a part of this event

which Major Brown helps organize. It is always well received and everyone is very enthusiastic. The Torch Run is for three miles in Ridgefield and this year it was another three miles in the town of Wilton. The event starts off with a kick off dinner at the Ridgefield Recreation Center. This year former Chief John Roche was honored with a plaque which was presented to his family. He was also honored with his name on the t-shirt which was worn by the athletes.

- **Survey**

Chief Kreitz and Major Brown presented a draft community survey. The Commission approved the draft with some minor changes.

AGENDA ITEM #5 UNION PARTICIPATION

There was no union participation for the month of June.

AGENDA ITEM #6 NEW BUSINESS

A. **Planning and Zoning Applications**

Three sets of traffic studies were sent to the department from Planning and Zoning. There were no significant traffic issues.

B. **Curve Signage Plans State Project 0174-0417**

The State will give a presentation at a public hearing.

AGENDA ITEM #7 OLD BUSINESS

B. **Speed Limit Changes**

The new signs have been installed and a request for a speed limit change was made for Neds Mountain Road.

C. **New Building – Needs Assessment/Feasibility Study**

The Commission will meet with the Board of Selectmen on June 26 at 8:00 am at the Town Hall to discuss the requests for the proposal.

AGENDA ITEM #8 EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE

Chairman Kain made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:08 pm to discuss Employee Performance. Commissioner Knoche seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 8:13 pm. No votes were taken.

Commissioner Perna made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 8:27 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Coffin. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Coffin
Police Commission Secretary